

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 AID-20 PC-10

SCS-03 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 SY-10 OPR-02

OC-06 CCO-00 USSS-00 A-01 NIC-01 SCA-01 DRC-01 /183 W

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O 061405Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6691

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN IMMEDIATE

CINCLANT FOR POLAD PRIORITY

COMCARIBSEAFRON IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRIDGETOWN 0219

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GJ

SUBJ: GRENADA SITREP 16

REF: BTN 215

SUMMARY EMBOFF MOOSE REPORTS FROM GRENADA IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT GOG WILL DECLARE STATE OF EMERGENCY FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE IN EFFORT TO RE-OPEN PORT AND BUSINESS; MOST RECENT DEMONSTRATION WAS SMALLER THAN PREVIOUS; MAJORITY OF OPPOSITION ELEMENTS PROBABLY WANT CRISIS RESOLVED; SHIPPING BOYCOTT IS ONLY REALLY EFFECTIVE OPPOSITION LEVEL LEFT. GAIRY STILL ENJOYS WIDE-SPREAD SUPPORT IN COUNTRY SIDE. COMMITTEE OF 22 AND NEW JEWEL MOVEMENT FEAR REPRISALS FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE AND LACK THE KIND OF FANATICAL SUPPORT TO RESIST OVERWHELMING ODDS; NEVERTHELESS, POSSIBILITY OF MAJOR CONFRONTATION REMAINS. FOREIGN COMMUNITY
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DOES NOT FEEL THREATENED. END SUMMARY.

EMBOFF MOOSE SENT OUT FOLLOWING ANALYSIS FROM GRENADA FEB 5
BY SAME PLANE WHICH TOOK AMBASSADOR IN:

1. VIRTUALLY CERTAIN THAT GOG WILL DECLARE STATE OF EMERGENCY THIS WEEK-END IN EFFORT TO REOPEN PORT AND BUSINESS. LIKELY THAT GOG WILL USE ARRESTS OR THREATS OF ARREST AGAINST NOT ONLY C-22 LEADERS BUT ALSO INDIVIDUAL WORKERS TO FORCE THEIR RETURN TO WORK. GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO REPORTEDLY BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH "FRIENDLY" GOVERNMENTS (VENEZUELA) TO BRING IN TECHNICIANS FROM OUTSIDE TO RUN ESSENTIAL SERVICES IF NECESSARY. SOME WORKERS AT TELEPHONE, PORT AND ELECTRIC PLANTS CLAIM THEY HAVE ALREADY BEEN TOLD NOT TO EXPECT TO RETURN TO WORK AFTER FEB 8 SINCE THEIR JOBS WILL ALREADY BE FILLED.

2. C-22, ESPECIALLY WATERFRONT WORKERS, HAVE CONTINUED THE DEMONSTRATIONS, BUT ON MUCH REDUCED SCALE. ONLY 100-150 PARTICIPATED IN FEB 4 MARCH THROUGH ST GEORGE'S. CLEARLY MANY UNION MEMBERS UNEASY OVER PROSPECT OF LOSING THEIR JOBS OR POSSIBLY BEING IMPRISONED. C-22 HAS SUCCEEDED IN ITS SHUTDOWN OF BUSINESS BUT HAS FAILED TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES. VAST MAJORITY PROBABLY WANT CRISES RESOLVED ONE WAY OR THE OTHER SO THAT THEY CAN GET BACK TO THE BUSINESS OF EARNING A LIVING. GOG NO DOUBT CALCULATES THAT STRIKE WILL CRUMBLE AT FIRST SHOW OF FORCE.

3. VIRTUALLY THE ONLY CARD WHICH OPPOSITION NOW HOLDS IS BOYCOTT OF SHIPPING FROM BARBADOS, TRINIDAD AND CURACAO. IF GOG DOES CRACK DOWN ON LOCAL UNION LEADERSHIP, OTHER UNIONS IN CARIBBEAN MAY WELL BE PROMPTED TO JOIN IN AND STRENGTHEN BOYCOTT. HOW GOG PROPOSES TO DEAL WITH THIS THREAT IS ANYBODY'S GUESS. (NOTE: OWTU AND BWU HAVE RESPONDED TO PERSONAL REQUESTS FROM CURTIS STEWART AND ERIC PIERRE, WHO REMAIN IN FOREFRONT OF STRIKE AND OUTWARDLY COMMITTED TO CONTINUING THE SHUT DOWN UNTIL GOG RESIGNS. OWTU'S GEORGE WEEKES HOLDS A LONG-STANDING PERSONAL GRUDGE AGAINST GAIRY FOR HAVING KICKED HIM OUT OF GRENADA CIRCA 1970 DURING SO-CALLED BLACK POWER UPRISING.)

4. DESPITE THE OPPOSITION CLAMOR IN ST GEORGE'S, IT IS CLEAR
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FROM VISITING THE COUNTRY-SIDE THAT GAIRY STILL ENJOYS WIDESPREAD AND EXTREMELY STRONG SUPPORT. INDEED, GAIRY REMAINS SOMETHING OF A FOLK HERO, AND SOME OF HIS MORE FANATICAL SUPPORTERS SEEM PERFECTLY WILLING TO SACRIFICE THEIR LIVES FOR HIM IF NECESSARY. MOST PLACE FULL BLAME FOR CURRENT CRISIS ON NJM AND C-22 AND SEEM EAGER FOR GOVERNMENT TO TAKE STRONG ACTION AGAINST THE OPPOSITION.

5. C-22 AND NJM, DESPITE THEIR BRAVADO AND EXPRESSIONS OF CONFIDENCE, ARE OBVIOUSLY FRIGHTENED BY PROSPECT THAT GAIRY WILL UNLEASH HIS SUPPORTERS TO EXACT THEIR OWN RETRIBUTION FROM THOSE FELT RESPONSIBLE FOR CURRENT CRISIS. C-22 AND NJM LACKS THE KIND OF FANATICAL SUPPORTERS WHO WOULD STAND UP IN THE FACE OF OVERWHELMING ODDS. THE POSSIBILITY OF A MAJOR CONFRONTATION STILL EXISTS, HOWEVER, PARTICULARLY IF THE GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTS TO DISPLACE WORKERS AT THE PORT, ETC. WITH STRIKE BREAKERS FROM AMONG HIS OWN SUPPORTERS.

6. AMERICAN RESIDENTS AND RESIDENT FOREIGN COMMUNITY SOMEWHAT APPREHENSIVE ABOUT WHAT IMMEDIATE POST-INDEPENDENCE FUTURE WILL BRING. NEVERTHELESS THEY DO NOT FEEL DIRECTLY INVOLVED OR THREATENED AND FEEL RELATIVELY CONFIDENT THAT WHATEVER ACTION GOG TAKES WILL NOT AFFECT THEM.

7. ONLY REASON WHY GOG HAS NOT REACTED WITH MORE FORCE UNTIL NOW SEEMS TO BE THAT GAIRY DID NOT WANT OUTSIDERS TO BELIEVE IT WAS NECESSARY TO DECLARE STATE OF EMERGENCY IN ORDER TO TAKE GRENADA INTO INDEPENDENCE. ONCE THE GLOVES COME OFF (PROBABLY ON FRIDAY) IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SAY HOW FAR RECRIMINATIONS AGAINST THE OPPOSITION WILL GO, PARTICULARLY SINCE THE ISLAND LACKS A REGULAR LAW ENFORCEMENT BODY TO RESTRAIN EXCESSES THAT MIGHT OCCUR.
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